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General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 40 and 41

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Letter dated 30 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al-Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, concerning the outcome of the emergency meeting of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the level of Foreign Minister, held in Doha, State of Qatar, on 26 May 2001, on the critical and dangerous situation in the Palestinian occupied territories and the persistence of the Israeli authorities in their continuous attacks against the Palestinian people, with the request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 40 and 41.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic]

The ministers for foreign affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference have agreed to inform you of the outcome of the emergency meeting they held on 26 May 2001 at Doha to consider possible means of halting the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel having greatly escalated its abusive practices against them.

Fearing that the security situation may deteriorate further, become irreparable and pose a danger of the entire region and wishing the Palestinian people to be protected from Israel's grievous methods of repression, the 56 member States decided to urge the Security Council to meet and to adopt resolutions that would provide international protection for the Palestinian people and avert the dangers of brutal Israeli aggression against it. Such protection would calm the situation and thus permit the resumption of negotiations with a view to devising a just and comprehensive settlement that would restore peace to all parts of the Middle East region.

The participants also called for the establishment of an international criminal tribunal to try those responsible for the war crimes that have been committed against the Palestinians, which are to be regarded as crimes against humanity whose victims are innocent citizens living under foreign occupation.

They urged that Israel should be required to pay reparations for the material losses resulting from its aggression against the occupied Palestinian territories, such as the destruction of urban and rural installations, as well as for the many Palestinian lives that have been lost, the serious wounds that have been inflicted and the permanent disabilities that have been caused, as has been the case in the past when compensation has been paid to victims of aggression in similar cases.

Since the major priorities of the United Nations include the maintenance of international peace and security and defence of the rights of all peoples to self-determination, I request you to do your utmost within the scope of the powers entrusted to you to assist the Palestinians in securing its legitimate right to self-determination and independence as recognized by the General Assembly in some dozens of its resolutions over many decades.

(*Signed*) Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr **Al Thani**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Chairman of the emergency meeting of ministers for
foreign affairs of the States members of the
Organization of the Islamic Conference

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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 30 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to transmit herewith to you a statement by an official source at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar, dated 30 July 2001, concerning the State of Qatar's condemnation and denouncement of a group to lay down the foundation stone at the alleged Temple in the Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-47409 (E) 310701 310701

Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The State of Qatar, in its capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, has expressed its disapproval and condemnation of the dangerous Israeli escalation exemplified by the decision of an extremist religious group to lay a cornerstone for the alleged Temple at the Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem. This is a provocation to religious sentiments and is to be regarded as an affront to the sanctity of the Islamic Holy Places and an act of wanton aggression against them.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency, an authoritative source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that this criminal act is a violation of the sanctity of the Islamic Holy Places and of the heritage of human civilization. It is an open affront to the sentiments of the Arab and Muslim peoples of the world and may thus ignite the situation in the region, over and above the fact that it represents a violation of international law and custom.

The source appealed to the international community and to the Security Council and its permanent members to meet their responsibility to prevent such provocation.

The source urged the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States and the Russian Federation, as well as the European Union to take immediate action to halt such grave outrages against the sanctity of Jerusalem and to create more appropriate conditions for a resumption of the peace process in the Middle East.

In concluding his statement, the source stressed that the State of Qatar, as current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, would support the Palestinian people in its just struggle to regain its land and its legitimate rights in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace, and he called upon Israel to respond to all the international initiatives and efforts being made for the establishment of peace, security and stability in the Middle East region.

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Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Rapporteur: Mr. Hossam **Zaki** (Egypt)

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/81 B of 25 May 2000, welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/54/839) and decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field.

2. In its report dated 4 December 2000 (A/C.4/55/6) (welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/135 of 8 December 2000), the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations decided to resume its consideration of the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809) and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of those recommendations (A/55/502), at its regular session, to be held after the completion and submission of the comprehensive review; and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in its report.

3. At its 162nd meeting, on 18 June 2001, the Special Committee elected the following representatives as the Committee's officers for a one-year term of office: Arthur C. I. Mbanefo (Nigeria), Chairman; Arnoldo M. Listre (Argentina), Michel Duval (Canada), Motohide Yoshikawa (Japan) and Waldemar Baranowski (Poland), Vice-Chairmen; and Hossam Zaki (Egypt), Rapporteur.

4. The Special Committee also discussed its organization of work and decided to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by Canada, to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/135.

II. General debate and working group

5. At its 162nd to 164th meetings, on 18 and 19 June 2001, the Special Committee held a general debate on the matters before it.

6. In his statement before the Special Committee at its 162nd meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United

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Nations Peace Operations (A/55/977), and drew attention to the Secretary-General's proposals to enhance the United Nations capacity for peacekeeping by strengthening management, strategic planning and policy and capacity development in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, capacities for rapid deployment, organizational structure and staffing and a system-wide capacity for information and analysis. The Under-Secretary-General urged the Special Committee to support those measures, which he believed were crucial for the Secretariat to respond swiftly, professionally and effectively to conflict.

7. The Under-Secretary-General underlined that, in order to make a positive impact, efforts to strengthen the Department would have to be accompanied by the willingness of the Security Council to do what is required to ensure that operations do not fail, and by the political will of Member States to match mandates with the human, material, financial and political support required. In that connection, he stressed the importance of a close partnership between the Secretariat, the Security Council and troop contributors.

8. During the ensuing general debate, many delegations underlined their continuing commitment to peacekeeping as an important instrument for the maintenance of international peace and security. Many delegations noted, however, that peacekeeping could not be a substitute for a permanent solution, nor could it resolve the underlying causes of a conflict. Many delegations reiterated that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and called for respect for the basic peacekeeping principles, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force, except in self-defence, and impartiality.

9. Many delegations expressed their commitment to strengthening United Nations peacekeeping and called on the Committee to ensure that the Organization had the full capacity to effectively plan, deploy and manage operations and a capacity to react quickly to a sudden surge in new missions or activities. In that context, many delegations welcomed the submission of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. While noting that the implementation of the reforms proposed by the Secretary-General could significantly strengthen United Nations peacekeeping, many delegations also underlined that political will was critical to its success and urged that Member States take steps to bridge the commitment gap with regard to personnel and equipment. At the same time, many delegations sought further clarification and information on a number of specific proposals within the report.

10. Many delegations urged that consultations between troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council be strengthened, and called for the adoption of measures beyond those provided for in Council resolution 1353 (2001). Other delegations emphasized the positive steps incorporated in the resolution and the ongoing review process and proposed that the Special Committee welcome resolution 1353 (2001) as an improvement in the existing mechanism of cooperation with the troop-contributing countries.

11. Many delegations stressed that all Member States must meet their obligations under the Charter and pay their assessed contributions to the Organization in full, on time and without conditions.

12. Many delegations broadly supported the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and encouraged him to implement those measures that are under his purview in order to improve significantly the performance of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations through changes in its structure, systems and procedure.

13. Many delegations endorsed the need expressed in the report of the Secretary-General for additional resources, as well as the better use of existing ones, in order to improve the functioning of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The same delegations underlined the need for an enhanced use of information technology.

14. With regard to the selection of mission leadership, many delegations reiterated that all candidates must be interviewed irrespective of the existence of on-call lists. Many delegations expressed the view that appointment of candidates to senior positions in the field should reflect the respective levels of contribution to that force. Many delegations welcomed the ongoing work to improve the selection process of future mission leadership, so that potential mission leaders would be closely involved in the planning process of a new mission.

15. With regard to issues of organizational structure, many delegations noted with interest the proposed creation of a peacekeeping strategic planning unit and the post of Director of Strategic Planning and Management but requested further clarification on the terms of reference of the position. Many delegations suggested that the terms of reference of the Unit should be limited to mandated operations. Many other delegations welcomed the proposed strengthening of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit and its renaming of it to the Peacekeeping Strategic Planning Unit as well as the creation of the post of Director of Strategic Planning and Management. Many delegations requested further clarification on the rationale behind the proposal for a third Assistant Secretary-General position. Many delegations supported the proposed upgrading of the Mine Action Service to Division status and its head to the Director level.

16. Many delegations supported the establishment of standard practices, guidelines, handbooks and standard operating procedures as well as the establishment of a small new unit in the renamed Office of Mission Support to assist in developing an overall policy guidance. The same delegations welcomed the creation of a Contact Management Section within the proposed Logistic Support Division.

17. Many delegations supported an enhancement of the role and the strengthening of the Situation Centre with a view, in particular, to allowing it to function as a joint operation centre during times of crisis.

18. Many delegations supported the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a new unit for system-wide policy and analysis in order to improve the coordination and information-sharing within the United Nations system. While many delegations welcomed the opportunity to further discuss the terms of reference, structure and membership of such a capacity, they remained unconvinced of the need for the proposed alternative to the Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security.

19. Many delegations expressed the view that peacekeeping activities could be made more efficient through increased delegation to the field based on proper policies and guidance from Headquarters, while other delegations voiced concerns regarding the possible implications of such a decision. Many delegations also called for standardization of planning and conduct procedures and clear definitions of chains of command and decision-making. Many delegations welcomed consultations by the Secretariat on the sample rules of engagement and requested that they be resubmitted to Member States prior to their finalization. Many delegations emphasized that United Nations rules of engagement must be uniformly observed by all United Nations contingents participating in a mission.

20. Many delegations stressed the importance of coordination at every level, both at Headquarters and in the field. In that regard, many delegations welcomed progress made to improve coordination, including the small-scale version of the first Integrated Mission Task Forces, encouraging the Secretariat to take steps towards the implementation of a full Integrated Mission Task Forces. In the context of strengthening the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' links with other relevant parts of the United Nations system, many delegations stressed that the departments engaged in peacekeeping support needed sufficient resources.

21. With regard to the Secretary-General's bulletin on observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law (ST/SGB/1999/13), many delegations renewed their call for further deliberations leading to a review of the issue.

22. Many delegations expressed the view that, in cases of suspected misconduct of peacekeepers, Member States concerned should be represented in the investigation to help ensure that those individuals would stand trial or face court martial in their home country and that the court in question would give the fullest consideration to the results of a United Nations investigation.

23. Many delegations considered the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel a matter of the utmost priority, and urged that further measures be developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in cooperation with the United Nations Security Coordinator, as appropriate. In that regard, many delegations insisted that staff should receive pre-mission and in-the-field training on safety and security and should be dispatched only with adequate security equipment.

24. In regard to train-the-trainers courses, many delegations noted that, while there was a need for training under specific conditions, trainers should be

trained prior to their arrival in theatre in order to ensure the cohesiveness of units.

25. Many delegations emphasized the need to maintain the status of the Military Adviser. Many other delegations welcomed the upgrading of the rank of the Civilian Police Adviser, considering the increasing role of civilian police in peacekeeping operations, and called for closer cooperation between the Military Adviser's Office and the Civilian Police Division. With regard to the representation of active-service military and civilian police officers in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, many delegations urged a re-examination of and an increase in the number of posts currently accorded to active service personnel out of the total number of posts allotted by the General Assembly.

26. Many delegations expressed their support for the creation of a unit for criminal law and judicial affairs to, inter alia, train law enforcement personnel in domestic law prior to their deployment and to advise them while conducting their mission. The same delegations supported the development of an interim criminal procedure code and requested that it be finalized.

27. Many delegations underlined the need for more resources to be allocated in order to address gender issues in peacekeeping and expressed their support for the inclusion of a number of gender experts in the Peacekeeping Strategic Planning Unit.

28. Many delegations welcomed the "principles and guidelines for United Nations civilian police operations" and stated that they looked forward to the prompt publication of those guidelines by the Secretariat.

29. Many delegations stated that the Secretariat should work towards the 30/90-day deployment timelines for peacekeeping operations, took note of the proposals to enhance deployment capacity presented in the report of the Secretary-General, expressed their support for the concept of a strategic reserve at the United Nations Logistics Base, and sought further information. Many delegations supported the medium strategic reserve option and stressed, at the same time, that the entire investment for strategic reserve would be meaningless unless the issue of a strategic air/sea lift capacity was properly addressed.

30. Several delegations expressed support for the reform of the United Nations Standby Arrangement System (UNSAS) and looked forward to further collaboration with the Secretariat to reinforce the system and make it more operational. Views were expressed in support of the creation of coherent brigade-size forces as a key component to meet the 30/90-day deployment timeline.

31. Many delegations expressed deep concern that delays in reimbursements of contingent-owned equipment continued to cause hardship for troop and equipment-contributing countries, and might affect their ability to participate in peacekeeping, particularly since those delays in the payment of arrears had increased significantly under the wet lease agreement in the preceding 18 months. Many delegations queried the current policy for contingent-owned equipment reimbursement under wet and dry lease arrangements, respectively, and suggested that the effectiveness of placing transportation for resupply under a dry lease arrangement should be examined further.

32. Many delegations suggested that developing countries should be exempt from bearing the cost of immunization of their troops serving in peacekeeping operations as such costs have an increasingly substantial financial impact on budgets.

III. Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

A. Introduction

33. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

34. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that peacekeeping continues to be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The mandate of the Special Committee, as the only forum in the United Nations to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct peacekeeping operations,

uniquely enables it to make a significant contribution to issues and policy relating to peacekeeping operations. It encourages other bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on peacekeeping operations.

35. Noting that, during the past two years, there has been a sudden surge in peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations in different parts of the world requiring participation by the Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be in an effective position to maintain international peace and security, inter alia, by improving the capacity to assess conflict situations, by effective planning and management of peacekeeping operations, and by responding quickly and effectively to any Security Council mandate.

36. Since the end of the cold war, there has been an increase in the number of complex peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee takes note that the Security Council has recently mandated peacekeeping operations which, in addition to the traditional tasks of monitoring and reporting, have included a number of other mandated activities. In that regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of an effective Department of Peacekeeping Operations that is structured efficiently and staffed adequately.

37. The Special Committee pays tribute to the high level of professionalism, dedication and courage displayed by the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

38. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of peacekeeping operations, and also emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as peacekeeping definitions, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning peacekeeping operations should be discussed in the Special Committee.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

39. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

40. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence, is essential to its success.

41. The Special Committee holds the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner with political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security.

42. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee notes the statements by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38) and 20 February 2001 (S/PRST/2001/5) with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peace-building elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase. The Special Committee stresses the importance of those elements being explicitly defined and clearly identified before they are incorporated into the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate. The Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peace-building activities.

43. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of peacekeeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, as well as secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, congruity between mandates, resources and objectives.

It emphasizes further that, when changes are made to existing mandates, commensurate changes should be made to the resources available to the peacekeeping operation to carry out its new mandate. Changes in a mandate during a mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council, including military advice, of the implications on the ground. The Committee also believes that such changes in mandates should occur after full discussion between contributing countries and the Council.

44. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operations devolves upon the Security Council, while their execution remains the responsibility of the Secretary-General.

C. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

45. The Special Committee, recalling paragraphs 9 to 12 of its report (A/C.4/55/6) and Security Council resolutions 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2001), requests the Security Council to consider the possibility of implementing the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations pertaining to the strengthening of cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Council and the Secretariat and give serious and timely consideration to proposals for a new mechanism of consultations between the Council and troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee looks forward to a dialogue with the Working Group of the Security Council in this regard.

D. Enhancing the capacity of the United Nations for peacekeeping

46. The Special Committee welcomes the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/977), containing the findings of the first in-depth and comprehensive review of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to conduct a regular and systematic review of the Secretariat's capacity.

47. The Special Committee recognizes the need to further strengthen the capacity of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to undertake its core functions and, especially, to reinforce management, planning, and mission support.

1. Management

48. The Special Committee stresses the importance it attaches to strengthening the Office of the Under-Secretary-General with a capacity dedicated to management issues, particularly for mid- to long-term managerial planning, evaluating and improving the performance of different services and units of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and improving the Department's management practices and culture. The Special Committee, in this regard, recommends the creation of the position of Director for Management, in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The Director should also supervise the work of the restructured Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit. Furthermore, the Special Committee recognizes the need to strengthen the front offices of the respective assistant secretaries-general.

49. The Special Committee takes note of the relevant part of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/977) on problems in management or organizational culture of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and requests the Secretary-General, when submitting a budget proposal, to provide preliminary information on specific measures taken to address these problems.

50. The Special Committee welcomes the steps being taken to ensure that the managers in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations give greater attention to performance appraisals.

2. Strategic planning

51. The Special Committee believes it is essential for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to be able to develop generic guidelines, procedures and best practices for the medium- and long-term needs of United Nations peacekeeping and to ensure greater coherence among the core entities within the Department as well as other relevant entities outside the Department.

52. The Special Committee further believes that a key requirement for meeting the future needs of peacekeeping operations is the ability to incorporate lessons learned from past and ongoing peacekeeping operations as part of the planning process.

53. The Special Committee recommends that the capacity and the scope of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit should be strengthened and its mandate broadened, as proposed by the Secretary-General.

54. The Special Committee concurs with the recommendation that the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit should be represented, as appropriate, in the Integrated Mission Task Forces in order to ensure that lessons learned and best practices from previous operations are incorporated into planning for new missions.

55. The Special Committee recommends that the restructured Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit be given a name that reflects its responsibilities better than the one proposed in the report.

3. Policy and capacity development

56. The Special Committee supports the focus in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening policy and capacity development in order for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to better undertake its core functions.

57. The Special Committee concurs with the Secretary-General that additional resources need to be allocated to enable the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to dedicate the requisite attention and give the necessary priority to policy and capacity development and, in this regard, supports the strengthening of the elements of the Department listed in paragraph 77 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Committee also welcomes the Secretary-General's proposal to create a small new unit in the Office of Mission Support, to ensure the functions referred to in paragraph 79 of the report of the Secretary-General. In this regard, the Committee stresses that training of civilian personnel in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be done in coordination with the Office of Human Resources Management.

58. The Special Committee believes that due regard should be given to the importance attached in General Assembly resolution 55/207 to the development of a common management culture in the United Nations system, in the framework of the United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy.

4. Operational planning and Integrated Mission Task Forces

59. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of establishing a coordinating mechanism to respond to complex challenges to international peace and security, and welcomes the steps taken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations aimed at improving its coordination and cooperation through the establishment of Integrated Mission Task Forces (IMTFs). The Special Committee therefore calls upon the Secretariat to fully embrace the IMTF concept. It reiterates that the individual entities participating in the task forces should continue to be guided by their respective mandates, should be responsible to their governing bodies and should participate in the task forces without detriment to their core functions.

60. The Special Committee recommends an increase in the capacity of the Office of Operations, to provide sufficient depth to give due attention to all the attendant responsibilities associated with mission planning and support. This should better enable the Secretariat to consult Member States and troop-contributing countries.

5. Mission leadership and in-mission planning

61. The Special Committee stresses the importance of having the entire leadership of a mission assembled at United Nations Headquarters as early as possible in order to enable them to participate in key aspects of the mission-planning process at Headquarters and subsequently in the field. However, the Special Committee is concerned over the practicality of having potential leaders of mission as the heads of future IMTFs. The Committee, while stressing further the importance of having the Secretariat provide comprehensive and continuous operational and strategic guidance for the mission leadership, recognizes the efforts of the Secretariat to develop a "mission headquarters orientation programme".

62. In order to accelerate the selection process, the Special Committee recognizes the need for Member States to submit the names of persons interested in being considered for appointment to the posts of Special Representative, Special Envoy and other civilian leadership positions within the coming year. It

takes note of the review process of the Senior Appointments Group in order to maintain an up-to-date roster, and encourages the Secretariat to enable countries to provide alternative candidates if the selected person is unavailable.

6. Mission support

63. The Special Committee supports the "task team" approach to mission support and encourages the Secretary-General to ensure greater communication and coordination between the Office of Operations, the Office of Mission Support, the Military Division and the Civilian Police Division. It welcomes, in this regard, the physical collocation, to the extent practicable, of staff of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to facilitate this approach.

64. The Special Committee recommends that the Situation Centre be made responsible for producing comprehensive fact sheets and written status reports in support of the Department's reporting requirements to the legislative organs and for troop-contributing country meetings. These should be supplemented during times of crises, by military and political assessments made available by the Office of Operations on a timely basis. The Committee recognizes that enhancing the capacity of the Situation Centre is vital to strengthening the overall coordination role assigned to the Office of Operations. In this regard, it agrees that such an enhancement requires additional resources as well as training for the staff.

7. Rapid deployment

65. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to continue to work towards the goal of being able to deploy peacekeeping operations within 30 days after the adoption of a United Nations mandate and to deploy complex peacekeeping operations within 90 days after the adoption of a mandate.

66. The Special Committee notes the Secretary-General's presentation of three options to enhance the organization's rapid and effective deployment capacities. The Special Committee endorses the concept of a strategic reserve at the United Nations Logistics Base. In this regard, it takes note of the Secretary-General's assessment that, of the three options proposed, the medium strategic reserve is the most appropriate and practical one. The Special Committee also believes that in preparing a detailed budget proposal on this or other possible options, the Secretariat should benefit from a dialogue with Member States in order to develop a common understanding of financial, equipment and personnel requirements to meet set deployment objectives.

67. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls paragraph 142 of its report (A/54/839) of 20 March 2000 and reiterates that contingent-owned equipment (COE) is an indispensable element in an effective United Nations rapid deployment capability. The Committee concurs with the Secretary-General's assessment in paragraph 127 of his report that the rapid deployment time frame can only be achieved by the provision of fully self-sustaining and completely self-sufficient troops provided by Member States, in accordance with the current contingent-owned equipment procedures.

68. The Special Committee attaches great importance to the timely availability of strategic air and sea lift to enhance the rapid deployment of peacekeeping missions. It encourages the Secretariat to investigate and forward recommendations on how strategic lift can be better prearranged. The Special Committee welcomes the attention given to this issue in the letter dated 19 March 2001 from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to the Permanent Representatives of all Member States on enhancing the standby arrangements system.

69. The Special Committee supports the ongoing efforts to enhance and strengthen the United Nations Standby Arrangement System (UNSAS) with a view to realizing its full and effective utilization. The Special Committee looks forward to consultations between Member States and the Secretariat in the further elaboration of mechanisms aimed at improving the system, including through the creation of "on-call" lists for military and civilian police personnel.

70. The Special Committee supports the further development of pre-mandate commitment authority given to the Secretary-General prior to a mission's full authorization by the Security Council and following the procedure as set out in paragraph 119 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/977), entailing close consultations with both the Security Council and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

8. Recruitment processes for civilian staff in peacekeeping operations

71. The Special Committee recognizes the need to fully remedy the unique challenges of staffing peacekeeping missions, and therefore supports the proposal to create a new section in the restructured Personnel Management and Support Service to undertake civilian workforce planning and analysis; expand the sources of recruitment; expedite and enhance the effectiveness of recruitment; manage the rapid civilian deployment capability and manage the careers of civilian staff in peacekeeping operations.

72. The Special Committee looks forward to the further development and wider use of the Galaxy Project, to standardize the process of recruiting civilian personnel for peacekeeping operations and to provide for greater transparency.

73. The Special Committee reiterates its recommendation that the staffing procedures in use by the Secretariat be kept under review to ensure that the process adequately supports the particular demands of rapid deployment.

74. The Special Committee recognizes the benefits of further delegation of recruitment authority to the field in terms of enhancing efficiency, but it also stresses that such reform necessitates proper policy guidelines and monitoring mechanisms, as well as adequately trained and experienced human resources staff.

75. The Special Committee believes that greater mobility of personnel, especially between Headquarters and the field, is required for improvement of the management and planning capacities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

9. Organizational structure

76. The Special Committee endorses the previous separation of the Civilian Police Division from the Military Division.

77. Given the importance of civilian police in current peacekeeping operations, the Committee could support the upgrading of the Civilian Police Adviser in the context of a rationalization of the rank structure of the Civilian Police Division. In this regard, the Committee takes the view that the position of the Civilian Police Adviser should be filled by an officer of an appropriate rank, commensurate with the seniority and experience requirements and the role and responsibilities of the post.

78. In supporting the further strengthening of the Civilian Police Division, the Special Committee supports the creation of a limited capability in the Division to assist on criminal law and judicial issues that are relevant to the use of civilian police, with the appropriate mandate, in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

79. The Special Committee supports the recommendation to upgrade the Mine Action Service to a Division, and that its head should be at the Director level.

80. The Special Committee remains unconvinced about the exact role of a third assistant secretary-general as proposed by the Secretary-General. The Committee would not wish to see the role of either the Military Adviser or the Civilian Police Adviser diminished with the creation of a third assistant secretary-general. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to elaborate on the case for a third assistant secretary-general in his next report.

81. The Special Committee supports the reorganization of the Field Administration and Logistics Division. It further supports the recommendation to create two separate divisions within a new Office of Mission Support, one for Administrative Support and one for Logistics Support, but does so on the clear understanding that it will result in visible improvements in coordination both in the Secretariat and in the field. It also supports the establishment of a Contracts Management Section within the proposed Logistics Support Division in order to strengthen the capacity for procurement planning, bearing in mind the need to avoid possible duplication. The Committee also recommends that active service military officers be included in the reorganized Office of Mission Support.

82. The Special Committee is concerned that the newly created Office of Mission Support lacks the necessary personnel resources to expeditiously handle claims for troop and equipment reimbursements. The Special Committee strongly reiterates its recommendation, as contained in paragraph 35 of its previous report (A/C.4/55/6), regarding the need for additional personnel for the Claims and Information Management Section of the Finance Management and

Support Service and urges the Secretariat to take remedial action as a matter of urgency.

10. Baseline staffing levels

83. The Special Committee stresses the need, as indicated in the Report of the Secretary-General (A/55/977), to provide the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with, inter alia the following:

(a) A solid management infrastructure;

(b) Effective "best practices and lessons learned" capacities;

(c) Significantly enhanced policy and capacity development capabilities;

(d) The establishment and maintenance of a solid operational planning infrastructure;

(e) Depth in its resource base to dedicate sufficient time to operational planning and mission support;

(f) A capability to provide the first line of response to operational exigencies.

The Committee supports the need for additional personnel and resources and requests that the Secretariat submit a detailed post-by-post justification for consideration and approval by the competent bodies of the General Assembly. The Special Committee stresses that the budget submission should reflect a rigorous analysis of needs and should also fully reflect the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee as contained in the present report.

84. The Special Committee in this regard reaffirms paragraphs 70 and 78 of its report dated 20 March 2000 (A/54/839), paragraphs 36 to 38 of its report dated 4 December 2000 (A/C.4/55/6) and takes note of General Assembly resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001 on human resources management.

E. Need for enhanced interrelationships with other parts of the Secretariat

85. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of the links between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and other relevant parts of the United Nations and holds the opinion that Departments and Offices that play a role in peacekeeping support should have sufficient resources. In this context, the Special Committee invites the competent organs of the United Nations to make the appropriate resources available to these Departments and Offices to enhance this relationship and provide efficient support for peacekeeping operations on the basis of proper budgetary justification.

F. Security management system: Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator

86. The Special Committee is gravely concerned about the growing number of attacks and acts of violence against United Nations and associated personnel, and stresses the need for host countries and others concerned to take all appropriate steps to ensure their safety and security. In this context, the Special Committee takes note of the entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and urges those States which have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention as soon as possible.

87. The Special Committee reaffirms that, in accordance with international law and international humanitarian law, all parties to a conflict where a United Nations operation is deployed, including non-State actors and/or bordering States, bear special responsibility for the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel engaged in that operation.

88. The Special Committee reiterates the need to explore the possibilities for further ensuring the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel and in this context takes note of the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on the scope of legal protection under the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel (A/55/637), which will be considered by the Sixth Committee at its fifty-sixth session.

89. The Special Committee emphasizes that status-of-forces agreements and status-of-mission agreements should include specific and practical measures to enhance personnel safety and security, based on the provisions of the Convention.

90. The Special Committee welcomes the comprehensive review of security requirements in

peacekeeping missions, but remains seriously concerned about the apparent deficiencies in the current system. With respect to safety and security, it notes the importance of better information collection, analysis, and dissemination at Headquarters and in the field. The Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Security Coordinator to pursue this matter as a priority. It further stresses the importance of Member States and the Secretariat sharing "best practices" relating to safety and security. It also stresses that attention to this issue of safety and security must be paid during the planning phase of a peacekeeping operation. In this regard, it requests the Secretary-General to include in his next report to the Special Committee steps taken to address the above-mentioned concerns.

91. Recalling paragraph 12 of the report of the Special Committee (A/C.4/55/6), the Special Committee reiterates its requests that the Secretariat provide Member States with security briefings in a timely and comprehensive manner, which should, as a general rule, be accompanied by written briefs.

92. The Special Committee invites the Security Council, in view of its responsibilities, to pay special attention to the security and safety of United Nations and associated personnel engaged in peacekeeping operations, in particular when considering the establishment of a new operation or change in peacekeeping mandates. Similarly, the Secretariat must consider the safety and security of personnel in the mission planning phase of an operation.

93. The Special Committee recommends that, in order to enhance the security and safety of United Nations and associated personnel in the areas where peacekeeping operations are deployed, the United Nations Secretariat and Member States must accept responsibility for the improved preparation of personnel in this regard. It emphasizes that the personnel participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations should be better trained so that they can respond properly to emergencies and avoid accidents. In this connection, the Committee considers that the following measures should be taken:

(a) Pre-mission training: Member States as well as the Secretariat should give priority to the question of safety and security in the pre-mission training of their personnel, especially civilian personnel;

(b) In-the-field training: heads of mission have a direct responsibility for the delivery of orientation programmes which must identify environmental and operational threats to a mission, and should ensure that all mission personnel, both military and civilian, receive thorough orientation and in-the-field training regarding their safety and security. Particular attention should be paid to civilians who have not received training opportunities beforehand;

(c) Efforts currently under way, such as standardization and evaluation of peacekeeping training, should give adequate attention to the aspect of safety and security. The Committee welcomes the final draft of the mission orientation programmes in this regard.

94. The Special Committee emphasizes the vital importance of all peacekeeping personnel receiving security briefings upon arrival in the mission area. Mission authorities must ensure that peacekeepers are thoroughly briefed on major potential threats associated with the environment and that they are given specific guidelines for avoiding hazardous situations.

95. The Special Committee reaffirms the important role that public information plays in ensuring the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel by increasing the local population's understanding of the objectives and purposes of the mission. In this regard, it notes the positive role played by the Trust Fund to support public information and related efforts in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

96. The Committee considers that the United Nations capacity to enhance the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel should be strengthened both at Headquarters and in the field.

97. The Special Committee, stressing the critical role played by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Air Safety/Transport Unit regarding safety awareness and accident prevention within United Nations peacekeeping operations, welcomes the International Civil Aviation Organization's review of United Nations peacekeeping air operations and supports the implementation of its relevant recommendations concerning the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee is concerned about the standards of United Nations-chartered aircraft contracted for the transportation of

United Nations peacekeepers and calls upon the Secretariat to take remedial measures in this regard.

G. System-wide information and analysis

98. The Special Committee recognizes that the proper conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations needs to be underpinned by a capability to analyse information relevant to each operation, which originates from the field or is available from public sources, and to disseminate its analysis to senior mission leadership, troop-contributing countries and, as appropriate other countries involved in the operation. This capability should benefit from the maximum amount of transparency both in the gathering of information and the dissemination of subsequent analysis. Furthermore, the tasking emanating from this capability should not extend beyond the mission leadership. Such a capability, when effectively utilized, especially in the decision-making process at all levels, could also contribute to the enhancement of the safety and security of United Nations personnel in the field.

99. The Special Committee recommends that this capability not be established in support of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and requests the Secretary-General to consider placing it within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or in his Executive Office. The Special Committee also recognizes the important role that information technology can play in the effective management and dissemination of information. In this regard, the Committee requests the Secretariat to revisit the concept of establishing information technology systems in support of the proposed analytical capability. The Committee requests that these issues be addressed by the Secretary-General in his report for consideration as soon as possible but no later than its next regular session.

H. Gender and peacekeeping operations

100. The Special Committee takes note of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and General Assembly resolution 55/71 of 4 December 2000, which call for urgent attention to mainstreaming a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations. The Committee encourages continued attention to training on gender awareness and gender mainstreaming for peacekeeping personnel at Headquarters and in the field, focusing particularly on the human rights of women and children and their special needs in conflict and post-conflict situations.

101. The Committee takes the view that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should ensure that issues relating to gender in the field are properly addressed both in the field and at Headquarters. To this end, the Committee takes the view that the work of gender focal points, who are to be at sufficiently senior levels and in the operations where they are needed, should have the proper back-up in the Secretariat. It stresses the need for reporting from the Secretary-General on how gender mainstreaming is implemented in the field.

I. Cooperation with regional arrangements

102. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping, in accordance with chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate and when the mandate and scope of regional arrangements and agencies allow them to do so.

103. The Special Committee emphasizes that, in accordance with article 53 of the Charter, no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council. Furthermore, the Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of the activities undertaken or contemplated by regional arrangements or regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

104. The Special Committee urges the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements and agencies within their respective mandates, scope and composition to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security. It appreciates the possibility of the practical realization of such cooperation at the regional and subregional levels and encourages the Secretary-General to take concrete steps towards that end. In that regard, the Committee takes note of the successful cooperation between the

United Nations and a number of regional and subregional arrangements and agencies.

105. The Special Committee recognizes the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations; however, as pointed out by the Secretary-General in paragraph 89 of his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/54/670), it should be borne in mind that, regardless of the arrangements made within any particular mission, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations inevitably poses considerable challenges, which cannot be solved without ongoing efforts by the international community. The Special Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Secretary-General elaborate in his next progress report on how these challenges can best be confronted.

106. The Special Committee stresses that cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements and agencies in the context of peacekeeping must abide by the letter and spirit of chapter VIII of the Charter. Such cooperation must also take into account the existing instruments and mechanisms operating in each of the regional arrangements and agencies concerned.

107. The Special Committee holds the view that efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of African countries in the various aspects of peacekeeping are complementary to the obligations of all United Nations Member States under the Charter with regard to their contribution to maintaining peace and security in Africa, and are not intended to replace or reduce engagement of non-African countries in peacekeeping operations on the continent.

108. The Special Committee stresses that international efforts aimed at enhancing the collective capacity of African countries to participate in peacekeeping operations should focus on enhancing the institutional capacity of the Organization of African Unity (OAU, shortly to become the African Union (AU)) and in particular its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, through the provision of financial and technical assistance. In this connection, the Committee underlines the relevance and importance of the OAU/AU Peace Fund, and urges Member States to contribute to it.

109. The Special Committee encourages Member States to contribute to current efforts aimed at enhancing the participation of African countries in peacekeeping operations, inter alia, through partnerships between States, and with OAU/AU and subregional organizations in the fields of training, logistics, equipment and financial support. The Special Committee reiterates its view that the United Nations, in consultation with OAU/AU and with the cooperation of Member States, should play an active role, especially in coordinating all those efforts and urges Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General for that purpose. It also encourages Member States to provide financial and other support to the current study of peacekeeping operations conducted by African subregional organizations.

110. The Special Committee looks forward to the establishment of a group on the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity, which was proposed by the Secretariat in August 1998. The Committee urges the Secretariat to continue its consultations with all interested Member States on the terms of reference of the group with a view to establishing it in a timely manner.

111. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the increasing cooperation between the United Nations and OAU/AU, and encourages all efforts to enhance it further in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/218 of 21 December 2000. In this connection, the Special Committee urges that discussion on the exchange of staff between the secretariats of the United Nations and OAU/AU be concluded at the earliest opportunity.

112. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat in the area of subregional peacekeeping training and seminars conducted in cooperation with the Southern African Development Community, the East African Cooperation, and the Economic Community of West African States, and encourages the Secretariat to extend these efforts to all other African subregional organizations.

J. Financial issues

113. The delay in reimbursement of troop contributors remains a deep concern for the Special Committee; such delays cause hardship for all troop- and equipment-contributing countries, especially developing countries. The Committee encourages the

Secretariat to continue to expedite the processing of all claims and reiterates its request that the Secretary-General present a progress report in this regard by the next session of the Committee.

114. The Special Committee stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, and it reaffirms the obligation of Member States under article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

K. Other issues of serious concern to the Special Committee

115. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that measures in the field with regard to conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building are coordinated and that this is crucial for building a solid foundation for peace. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of early planning and regular coordination for peacekeeping operations and other mandated activities designed to reduce the risk of resumption of conflicts and to contribute to creating the conditions most conducive to reconciliation, reconstruction and recovery. The Special Committee also stresses the importance of formulating appropriate exit strategies in future peacekeeping operations.

116. The Special Committee strongly recommends that Member States concerned be fully consulted and provided on a timely basis with a copy of all United Nations internal investigations or inquiries into incidents, including the final outcome reached, which involve the death of or injury to personnel from Member States or loss/theft of property of Member States.

117. The Special Committee reiterates its recommendation that, in cases of alleged gross misconduct, Member States concerned be invited to take part in the investigation to the greatest extent possible, for example, through representation in the force-level international military police unit, bearing in mind the need to maintain discipline in the mission area and the desirability of justice being done in all such cases.

118. The Special Committee welcomes the circulation of sample rules of engagement to Member States, looks forward to further consultation in their finalization and welcomes the Secretariat's assurances in this regard. This will not, however, obviate the need for the development of mission-specific rules of engagement, which should be developed in consultation with prospective troop-contributing countries with a view to ensuring their uniform application.

119. The Special Committee also underlines the importance of further consultation with Member States regarding the Secretary-General's Bulletin on observance by United Nations forces of international humanitarian law (ST/SGB/1999/13).

120. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of issuing training materials in all official languages of the United Nations and, in this regard, urges that appropriate funding be made available.

121. The Committee encourages the Secretariat to provide increased assistance for the conduct of regional training programmes through the Secretariat's participation or by any other means feasible.

122. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of maintaining the cohesiveness of a peacekeeping unit once deployed and, in this context, again stresses that trainers should be trained prior to deployment.

123. The Special Committee appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat to promote standardization and professionalism in civilian police operations and welcomes the issuance and distribution of the "Principles and guidelines for United Nations police operations", with a view to supporting the efforts of Member States to train police for participation in operations.

124. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretariat's intention to draft other rules and procedures as part of the standardization of a United Nations civilian police administrative start-up kit, such as civilian police disciplinary measures and procedures. In this context, it recommends that the Secretariat finalize this exercise in close consultation with Member States.

125. The Special Committee also looks forward to the issuance of the compendium of instances in which the Organization is due restitution, as a result of non-compliance with status-of-forces agreements or other agreements, and reiterates the need for the Secretary-

General to withhold claims submitted by Member States concerned until the matter of expenditure is resolved.

126. The Special Committee underlines the importance it attaches to rapid issuance of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal.

127. The Special Committee reiterates its support for consideration of the issue of pre-deployment immunization for peacekeeping personnel by the appropriate bodies of the General Assembly, and looks forward to the Secretary-General's proposal for a methodology for reimbursement of troop costs, including the establishment of a standard vaccination package and identification of mission-specific vaccines and mission-specific medical and bio-chemical examinations. The United Nations should make sure that immunization of peacekeepers has taken place, to the extent possible, prior to their deployment.

128. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat, in reforming and restructuring the mechanisms and systems on peacekeeping operations, to make maximum use of the existing resources of the United Nations system, for the purpose of full utilization and performance of the potentiality of the existing mechanisms and systems.

129. The Special Committee recommends that, when they are mandated by the Security Council as part of a peacekeeping operation, programmes for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration be provided with adequate and timely resources, and urges that consideration be given to bringing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes into the assessed budgets of relevant peacekeeping operations for the start-up of an operation. The funding for such programmes would be reviewed in the course of the examination of the mission's budget.

130. The Special Committee believes that the validity of the tests administered by Civilian Police Selection Assistance Teams (SAT) should be 12 months, and requests the Secretariat to incorporate this revision accordingly into the SAT guidelines currently in use.

131. The Special Committee welcomes the review of procurement procedures carried out by the Secretariat with regard to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and stresses the need for efficiency, propriety, accountability and transparency in the procurement process. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of General Assembly resolution 55/247 of 12 April 2001 and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly.

132. The Special Committee, with regard to the participation of Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, acknowledges the need for greater coordination among United Nations departments and agencies to avoid duplication and improve effectiveness in the conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. To this end, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General consider the establishment of a small support secretariat to service the Executive Committee on Peace and Security.

133. The Special Committee supports a review of the personal baggage allowance for a peacekeeper. Consideration should also be given to providing senior staff, officers, military observers and civilian police with the same travel arrangements as United Nations personnel at Headquarters in New York.

134. The Special Committee reiterates the importance it attaches to enhancing regular contacts between the Secretariat and Member States, in particular as they relate to facilitating the contribution and deployment of troop-contributing countries in peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide Member States, on a semi-annual basis, with updated lists containing the names of its key personnel and officers and their responsibilities in the relevant Offices, Divisions, Units and Sections within the Department who maintain regular contacts with the Permanent Missions of Member States on all issues related to the participation, deployment and reimbursement of their personnel in peacekeeping operations.

135. The Special Committee highly appreciates the international seminars on peacekeeping operations arranged by Member States and encourages the conduct of such seminars in the future and the circulation to Member States of their outcome. Such seminars provide a valuable opportunity to share experiences and develop a better understanding of the various facets of peacekeeping. The Committee commends all Member States who actively pursue a greater understanding of peacekeeping, and, specifically, those countries willing to host conferences distinguished by

their wide participation. A list of seminars and conferences organized by Member States on peacekeeping operations and held since the last regular session of the Special Committee is contained in annex II to the present report.

136. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present report, on which specific reports have not been requested, six weeks prior to its 2002 session.

Annex I

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2001 session

Members: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Observers: Dominican Republic, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the Holy See.

Annex II

2000-2001 seminars and conferences*

Title of conference or seminar	*Location*	*Date*	*Sponsor/Organizer*
1. 2000 International Peace Academy Vienna Seminar on "Sharing political space in peacemaking: the United Nations and regional organizations"	Vienna	6-8 July 2000	Austria
2. 2001 International Peace Academy Vienna Seminar on "Promoting institutional responses to the challenges on the Caucasus"	Vienna	5-7 July 2001	Austria
3. United Nations Police Trainer Course	Budapest	12-15 April 2000	Hungary
4. Challenges of peacekeeping into the twenty-first century — peacekeeping 2015: a perspective	New Delhi	13-15 September 2000	India
5. Seminar on the safety of United Nations peacekeepers and associated personnel working in conflict zones	Tokyo	15-16 March 2001	Japan, Sweden, United Nations
6. United Nations Training Assistance Teams (UNTAT) seminar	Panchkhal, Nepal	24 April-12 May 2001	Canada, Nepal, Poland, United Nations
7. Seminar on the issue of small arms disarmament within the context of peacekeeping	Warsaw	18-19 September 2000	
8. Conference on the reform process of United Nations peace operations: debriefing and lessons	Singapore	2-3 April 2001	Japan, Singapore, United Nations Institute for Training and Research
9. United Nations Civilian Police	Avila, Spain		Spain

* Seminars are listed in alphabetical order of host country; sponsors/organizers are listed in alphabetical order.

United Nations A/55/1024/Corr.1

General Assembly

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20 August 2001

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 86

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Rapporteur: Mr. Hossam **Zaki** (Egypt)

Corrigendum

In annex II, the ninth entry should read as follows:

Seminar on United Nations Civilian Police	Avila, Spain	4-5 May 2000	Spain, United Nations

01-51760 (E) 220801

United Nations A/55/1025–S/2001/765

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
3 August 2001

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General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 1 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 August 2001 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-49880 (E) 070801

Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 18 June 2001 (A/55/990-S/2001/599) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 23 March 2001 (A/55/854-S/2001/272). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that allegations of so-called violations of the flight information region or violations of international air-traffic regulations are void and groundless under international law. Every precaution is being taken for the safety of navigation of civil air traffic during the activities of Turkish State aircraft within international airspace, where the civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to provide air-traffic and aeronautical information services.

As stated in my previous letters, such allegations are based on the deceitful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This claim of the Greek Cypriot administration does not correspond with the reality in Cyprus, namely, the existence of two independent States, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within their respective territories on the island.

I would like to reiterate that the ongoing misinformation campaign of the Greek Cypriot administration against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is not conducive to reconciliation on the island. My Government expects that the international community will, at this sensitive stage, urge the Greek Cypriot side to abandon its current unconstructive stance and instead adopt a new positive attitude so that efforts in search of a settlement between the two States can be productive.

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/55/1026–S/2001/778

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
9 August 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 64
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 8 August 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to draw your attention to the illegal archaeologic excavations carried out at the archaeologic site of Salamis, in the occupied area of Cyprus, for which the Government of Turkey bears full responsibility, as confirmed by the European Court of Human Rights in its judgement of 10 May 2001, in the Fourth Inter-State Application of the Republic of Cyprus against Turkey (Application No. 25781/94, case of *Cyprus v. Turkey*, Judgement 10.2.2001).

According to the Turkish Cypriot press, recent illegal excavations were carried out between 25 June and 29 July 2001, under the direction of a certain Professor Coskun Ozguner, of the University of Ankara, assisted by 13 Turkish archaeologists from the University of Ankara, and from two universities functioning illegally in the occupied part of Cyprus, namely the so-called Middle East University and Middle East Polytechnic. These recent Turkish illegal excavations brought to light the Baths of Limena, which during the Byzantine era had been damaged and had later collapsed.

The illegal excavations at Salamis first started in August 1999, under the direction of Professor Ozguner with the assistance of Turkish architects and students. The team occupied the dig houses of archaeologic missions that had been excavating in Cyprus before the Turkish invasion of 1974, namely, the Cyprus Department of Antiquities (1952-1974) and the French mission of the University of Lyon (1964-1974). All archaeologic activity at Salamis came to an abrupt end in the summer of 1974, when the Turkish army invaded Cyprus and occupied 37 per cent of its territory, including the archaeologic site of Salamis. The dig house of the Department of Antiquities, where documents and archaeologic materials had been kept, was plundered. The dig house of the French mission, where documents, plans and photographs, as well as archaeologic material had been stored, became inaccessible to its rightful owners.

01-50612 (E) 100801

Regarding the recent excavations and according to the same Turkish Cypriot press report, Professor Ozguner had asked the French University of Lyon to collaborate with him, but he did not receive an answer. It should be noted that the French University of Lyon, despite the reported calls to collaborate with the Turkish team, refused to engage in this illegal exercise.

The Government of Cyprus holds the Government of Turkey and its subordinate local administration in the occupied area of Cyprus responsible for all illegal excavations, which violate all international conventions and recommendations on the issue, and have an adverse and destructive effect on the cultural heritage of the island. Furthermore, these actions run contrary to the lawful interests of the people of Cyprus, as well as previous excavators, both Cypriot and French, and are also ethically unacceptable in the eyes of the entire international scholarly world.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest the above actions, which violate all international conventions and recommendations for the protection of cultural heritage, and hereby call for their cessation.

I would greatly appreciate it if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) George **Kasoulides**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/55/1027–S/2001/784

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 August 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda items 40 and 41

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 13 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to transmit herewith to you the text of a statement by an official source at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar on 12 August 2001 (see annex), concerning the State of Qatar's condemnation and denouncement of Israel for the seizure of the Orient House and for shutting down Palestinian establishments in East Jerusalem.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-50962 (E) 140801

Annex to the letter dated 13 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The State of Qatar, in its capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, has expressed its condemnation and denunciation of Israel's occupation of Orient House in East Jerusalem and of its use of military aircraft to attack premises belonging to the Palestinian Police. Such acts of provocation are in absolute breach and flagrant violation of all the agreements signed by the Palestinian and Israeli parties, and they bring the peace process to the verge of total collapse.

An official source thus affirmed that Israel must comply with all the covenants and resolutions that embody international legitimacy, called upon the international community to condemn these actions in the strongest terms and urged the United Nations and the Security Council to meet their responsibility to take action to halt iniquitous and unwarranted Israeli practices.

The co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States and the Russian Federation, as well as the European Union must intervene forthwith in order to halt the grievous Israeli violations and outrages to which the Palestinian people is being subjected and must bring pressure to bear on Israel to withdraw its military forces and evacuate Orient House in East Jerusalem.

In concluding his statement, the source stressed that the State of Qatar, as current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, would support the Palestinian people in its just struggle to regain its land and the exercise of its legitimate rights in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the Madrid Conference formula as exemplified by the principle of land for peace.

Doha, 12 August 2001

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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

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Fifty-sixth year

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution 55/174 A of 19 December 2000, in which the Assembly requested me to report every four months during its fifty-fifth session on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMA). The report, which covers developments since the issuance of my previous report on 19 April 2001 (A/55/907-S/2001/384), is also submitted in response to requests by the Security Council for regular information on the main developments in Afghanistan.

II. Recent developments in Afghanistan

A. Activities of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan

1. Contacts with the Afghan warring sides

2. In the last four months, my Personal Representative and Head of the Special Mission to Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell, has been in frequent contact with the two warring sides. On the Taliban side, he has held five meetings in either Kabul or Kandahar, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Wakil Ahmad Mutawakkil. In addition, he has held separate discussions with other Taliban authorities, including the Governor of Kandahar, Mullah Hassan Rahmani, the Minister of Education, Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Deputy Justice Minister, Jalaluddin Shinwari, and Deputy Foreign Ministers Abdul Rahman Zahed and Mullah Abdul Jalil, as well as provincial dignitaries in Jalalabad and Herat, cities that my Personal Representative visited in May.

3. On the United Front side, my Personal Representative travelled to Faizabad on 24 May for a meeting with Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan (ISA). He has also met in Dushanbe, on 23 April and 27 July, the ISA Vice-President and Minister of Defence, Ahmad Shah Massoud, and held talks with the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abdullah Abdullah, in Brussels on 15 May and in Berlin on 19 July.

4. The extensive discussions with both sides covered a wide range of issues, such as the military situation on the ground, prospects for a ceasefire and a political settlement, the role of the United Nations in future negotiations, the status of UNSMA in the areas under their control, human rights-related issues, the relations of the two warring sides with neighbouring

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and other countries, the sanctions adopted by the Security Council, their respective political programmes and their vision of how the Afghan conflict might be settled, their reaction to proposals for the convening of an extraordinary *loya jirga* and the role of the former King and contacts with non-warring Afghan groups abroad. In addition, in his talks with the Taliban Foreign Minister, Mr. Vendrell has repeatedly raised the continued presence of Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan and persistent reports of the existence in Taliban-controlled territory of camps where international terrorists are trained as well as issues related to United Nations activities.

5. No talks, direct or indirect, have taken place between the two sides during the period under review. The Taliban have persisted in their refusal to carry out the written agreement of 2 November 2000 to start a process of dialogue with the United Front, citing what they consider the United Nations lack of impartiality in the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1333 (2000) of 19 December 2000. The Taliban also refused an invitation by the Government of Japan for the two warring sides to visit Tokyo in May on the grounds that the United Nations would be represented at that meeting.

2. Contacts with non-belligerent Afghans

6. My Personal Representative has maintained an intensive dialogue with relevant Afghan personalities and non-belligerent groups outside Afghanistan that support the convening of a special *loya jirga* and has repeatedly urged them to coordinate their efforts in pursuit of a peaceful political settlement in Afghanistan. On 16 May, he met in Rome with the former King, Mohammad Zahir Shah, and with members of the Rome Process Executive Committee. On 19 May he held talks in London with representatives of the Cyprus Movement for Implementation of Peace in Afghanistan and has also met representatives of the Council for Peace and National Unity in Afghanistan (the so called "Bonn Process"), the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, as well as other groups and former mujahedin commanders in Peshawar and elsewhere. Most of those groups consider that only a *loya jirga* convened by the former King would have the necessary credibility and support inside Afghanistan.

3. Contacts with concerned Governments

7. In the past few months, my Personal Representative has discussed the situation in Afghanistan with senior Pakistani government officials, including two meetings with the Director-General of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Mahmud Ahmed, and on various occasions with Foreign Secretary Inam ul-Haque, and Additional Secretaries Aziz Ahmad Khan and Riaz Khan.

8. On 11 April, Mr. Vendrell briefed the Governing Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna on developments in Afghanistan and their implications for the situation in Central Asia.

9. My Personal Representative visited Kazakhstan from 18 to 20 April for discussions with the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, and Foreign Minister Erlan Idrissov and Kyrgyzstan on 7 and 8 May for talks with President Askar Akayev and the Presidential Adviser for International Affairs, Askar Aitmatov. Both Governments expressed their concern about the negative repercussions that the situation in Afghanistan had for their security and reiterated their willingness to be of assistance in the discharge of my good offices and to host intra-Afghan talks under United Nations auspices. In Almaty, the Government of Kazakhstan reiterated its proposal that a special session of the Security Council dedicated to the question of Afghanistan and Central Asia be held in New York at an appropriate time following adequate preparation.

10. Between 13 and 18 June, my Personal Representative paid visits to Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Ashgabat, he discussed at length the Afghan issue with President Saparmurat Niazov and with the then Foreign Minister Batyr Berdiyev. In Tehran, he met Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohsen Aminzadeh and other senior officials.

11. On 1 June, my Personal Representative held talks in Washington, D.C., with the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca, as well as with other senior officials in the State Department and in the National Security Council. A brainstorming session on Afghanistan organized by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Weston Park provided an opportunity for further discussions with participants from the "six plus two" group and other interested Governments, in particular with senior British officials.

12. Mr. Vendrell also discussed the need for a comprehensive approach to the Afghanistan conflict

with the Foreign Ministers of France, Hubert Vedrine, and of Germany, Joschka Fischer.

B. Status of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, including the Civil Affairs Unit

13. Since mid-May, UNSMA presence in Taliban-held territory has been confined to Kabul, following a formal Taliban request in late April for the early closure of all UNSMA offices in the provinces in retaliation for formal closure of the Taliban office in New York. Although UNSMA activities in Taliban-held areas have been restricted since the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1333 (2000) and the closure of its offices had been a possibility since then, the actual demand came as somewhat of a surprise, since my Personal Representative had recently received a verbal assurance from the Taliban Foreign Minister that UNSMA would be able to resume its functions fully. The UNSMA office in Kabul is currently staffed by a political officer and two civil affairs officers. The civil affairs officers in Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif have been relocated to Islamabad, from where they conduct regular visits to Peshawar and Quetta, where there are large concentrations of Afghans, and to United Front-held areas in the north-east. A sub-office is in the process of being established in the Panjshir Valley.

14. On 20 June, the Taliban requested UNSMA to vacate the premises it had long occupied in Kabul by 15 July, on the ground that they were required for the use of the Deputy Head of the Council of Ministers, Hassan Akhund. New premises were identified and UNSMA successfully completed its relocation ahead of the deadline.

C. Political developments

15. In April the Taliban dismissed approximately 9,000 civil servants, including staff from the Ministries of Defence and Interior as well as the Istikhbarat (Secret Service), citing budgetary reasons. Many of those officials were suspected of having been linked to the Government of former President Najibullah.

16. On 16 April, the Taliban Head of the Council of Ministers, Mullah Mohammad Rabbani, died in Islamabad after a long illness. An original member of the Taliban movement, he was considered the second most important leader after Mullah Omar. His replacement has not yet been appointed.

17. The Taliban's increasing efforts to establish their version of a "pure Islamic society", based on their interpretation of Islam, according to the Deobandi and Wahhabi schools of thought are reflected in a series of measures such as the introduction of new curricula throughout the education system emphasizing Islamic and Arabic-language subjects to the detriment of the arts and the sciences. In pursuit of their policy of Islamization, the Taliban introduced for the new school year, starting on 21 March, new curricula for primary, secondary and higher education, substantially increasing the number of Islam-related subjects at the cost of secular ones. In July, the Taliban banned the use of the Internet and the import of 30 items ranging from pig oil, products containing human hair, any musical instrument, chess boards, playing cards and tapes to nail polish and neckties. In addition, all Taliban officials are required to wear a black turban, while women have been banned from recreational sites. It should be noted, however, that at times there is a certain gap between Taliban decrees and their observance.

18. In May, a Taliban media report quoted the Minister for the Promotion of Virtue and the Eradication of Vice as saying that the Taliban were considering making non-Muslim citizens wear identity labels on their clothing to distinguish them from Muslims and to prevent them from being unnecessarily troubled by Vice and Virtue squads, which regularly seek to ensure that men keep their beards untrimmed and attend mosques at prayer times. The matter generated widespread outrage in the international community because of its symbolism and its potential for discrimination against the small Hindu minority. Following appeals from many quarters, including mine conveyed through my Personal Representative, the Taliban Minister of Justice stated that the Hindu community would be consulted before any such order was issued. Mr. Mutawakkil has repeatedly indicated to Mr. Vendrell that the form of identification, which is currently before the Council of Ministers for a decision, might well consist of some kind of identification card, which could be produced whenever required by the authorities.

19. The numbers of non-Afghan nationals present on Afghan territory appear to be on the increase, judging from their greater visibility in major cities, such as Kabul, Kandahar and Herat, and according to other reports.

20. Beginning on 3 August, over 20 persons, 8 of them foreigners belonging to the non-governmental organization, Shelter Now International, have been arrested. The foreigners are accused of spreading Christianity in Afghanistan under the guise of providing humanitarian assistance, whereas the Afghans are being investigated about their possible conversion from Islam to Christianity, an offence that, if proved, carries the death sentence. My Personal Representative has been discussing this matter with the Taliban authorities and also the need to allow consular access to the detainees.

21. A 12-member Taliban delegation headed by the Chief Justice, several cabinet members, including the Foreign Minister, and ulemas visited Qatar, president of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) from 7 to 10 April. Among the subjects discussed, the Taliban mentioned their wish for an OIC office to be established in Kabul. At the meeting in Bamako from 25 to 27 June, the OIC Foreign Ministers, in a resolution on the situation in Afghanistan, requested their Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures to open an OIC relief office in Afghanistan devoted to facilitating the process of extending humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people.

22. In the course of his visit to Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ruud Lubbers, met with the President of ISA in May, as well as the Taliban Foreign Minister, and proposed a six-month humanitarian ceasefire. His proposal was welcomed by Mr. Rabbani, but rejected by the Taliban.

23. Bombing incidents continued to occur in major Afghan cities. On 4 May, a bomb exploded in a local mosque in Herat, killing a dissident Sunni Iranian cleric and several other civilians. This was followed by an attack by a group of locals against the Iranian Consulate General in that city. The Consulate was ransacked while its personnel were evacuated by the Taliban. It remains closed. Similar incidents have occurred in Kabul, blamed by the Taliban on the United Front. On 8 August, four Afghans convicted of involvement in some of the incidents were publicly hung in a Kabul square.

24. During the reporting period, the former King of Afghanistan, in pursuit of his emergency *loya jirga* initiative, dispatched delegations to the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In mid-June, the US State Department released a poll of some 5,000 Afghans from 27 provinces of Afghanistan, in which almost 50 per cent agreed that Zahir Shah was the leader who could "most successfully" address the problems facing Afghanistan at present. The other Afghan personalities in the questionnaire scored 11 per cent or below.

25. My Personal Representative has recently discussed with the Government of Pakistan the fears the prominent Afghans living in that country, many of them supporters of the former King and of convening an extraordinary *loya jirga*, continue to express regarding their security. Recent cases include those of Haji Mangal Hussein and of the spokesman for the Lawyers' Association of Afghanistan, Gul Rahman Qazi, both of whom had been the object of persistent threats and arson attacks against their property. Mr. Hussein felt compelled to seek asylum in a third country. The Pakistani authorities have promised to investigate those and other reports.

D. International developments related to Afghanistan

26. There has been a plethora of diplomatic activities related to Afghanistan during the reporting period. In late April, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hassan Rohani, visited Islamabad for talks with Pakistani leaders. Both Governments agreed that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict and that the two warring sides should come together to establish a broad-based government in Afghanistan. The topic was also discussed during the visit of Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, Inam ul-Haque, to Tehran at the end of July. Afghanistan was one of the subjects touched upon by Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji in his talks with General Pervez Musharraf in the course of his visit to Pakistan in early May. The issue figured prominently during the visit to London and Washington in mid-June by the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, and has been the subject of further discussion during the visit of the United States Assistant Secretary of State, Christina Rocca, to Islamabad at the end of July.

27. The European Union troika, represented by their ambassadors in Islamabad, paid a visit to Kandahar and to Faizabad in late April and early May, respectively, to explain to the Taliban and United Front leadership the Union's common position on Afghanistan.

28. The concern about the implications for Central Asia of the current situation in Afghanistan was evident in the decision taken in Yerevan by the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan as well as Armenia and Belarus to establish a rapid reaction force aimed at repelling incursions by extreme Islamic groups emanating from Afghanistan. In their 15 June declaration on the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Presidents of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan agreed to cooperate closely with a view to the implementation of the Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism and to proceed with the establishment of a regional anti-terrorist structure with headquarters in Bishkek.

29. The United States-Russian Working Group on Afghanistan, chaired by US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Trubnikov, which met in Washington, D.C., on 24 and 25 May, agreed that the situation in Afghanistan, and especially the Taliban's support for terrorism, continued to be a threat to the interests of both countries as well as to regional and international stability, that only a political solution could lead to peace in Afghanistan and that they would support further steps to develop an effective monitoring mechanism for United Nations sanctions. Afghanistan was further discussed at meetings in Moscow on 25 and 26 June of the Joint Indo-Russian Working Group on Afghanistan and in Washington, D.C., on 26 and 27 June of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. The issue was also discussed by the Presidents of the Russian Federation and the United States at their meeting in Ljubljana in June.

30. At their summit meeting in Genoa, Italy, in July, the leaders of seven major industrialized nations and the Russian Federation (G-8) reiterated their concern over the growing terrorist threat originating from Afghanistan, urged the Taliban to comply with Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and 1333 (2000) and expressed support for the United Nations and other efforts to advance a peace process through political negotiations between Afghan parties or through a mechanism such as a *loya jirga*.

31. On 29 May, a Federal Court in New York found four men, two Arabs, a Tanzanian and an Arab-born American, guilty of conspiracy in the bombings of the United States Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in August 1998. The Court found that three of the perpetrators had received training in camps run by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan. In May, an Algerian with connections to the bin Laden network was convicted of terrorist conspiracy in a plot to bomb the Los Angeles International Airport during the 2000 millennium celebrations. Other suspects allegedly linked to bin Laden have recently been arrested or are facing trial in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and elsewhere.

E. The military situation

32. Fighting between the Taliban and the United Front has intensified since the beginning of May, with neither party yet scoring meaningful territorial gains. The focus remains on Takhar as both warring sides continue to reinforce the main confrontation lines in that strategic north-eastern province. Fighting has also spread to other areas of the country with the return of some commanders once ousted by the Taliban.

33. In early May, fighting broke out in the Farkhar Gorge, east of Taloqan, the provincial capital of Takhar, with the Taliban forces launching a major offensive on the Chal district and in the Gorge at the beginning of June. The United Front, for its part, launched an unsuccessful attack in late June from Khwajaghar towards Taloqan. The fighting subsided during the first two weeks of July, allowing both sides needed time for regrouping and reinforcement. Fighting resumed south of Taloqan on 19 July but after two days it declined again. The middle and southern part of the confrontation line has also been very tense during the period under review.

34. Fighting south and north of Taloqan is likely to continue and even intensify in the near future as both sides have deployed large numbers of troops along the northern part of the main confrontation line. The Taliban are expected to continue attacking along the northern part of the line, with the aim of cutting the United Front's supply road, which ruins from the ferry on the Tajik-Afghan border, north of Dasht-i-Qala. Their objective appears to be the capture the Farkhar Gorge, a strategic corridor leading to Badakshan, the only province that remains in full United Front control. The United Front, in turn, is likely to concentrate in defending the Farkhar Gorge as well as Khwajaghar and Dasht-i-Qala and to attempt to recapture Taloqan from the direction of Khwajaghar and Dasht-i-Qala.

There has also been ongoing exchange of fire between Taliban and United Front fighters on the islands on the Amu Darya, near Emam-e Saheb, where some 10,000 displaced persons, including United Front fighters, are stranded near the Tajikistan border.

35. The forces under General Dostum, who returned to Afghanistan in April, are based in Sar-e Pul Province. After launching an unsuccessful attack in Balkh Province, they are now concentrating their military activities in the northern provinces of Badghis and Faryab, so far without much success. The former Governor of Herat, Ismail Khan, arrived in the western province of Ghor in the middle of May and has successfully strengthened his position in that province, cutting off the roads to the provincial capital of Chaghcharan.

36. The forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat leader, Karim Khalili, have remained active in the central province of Bamyan and kept Yakawlang, the second largest city in the province, which has changed hands several times in recent months, under their control since 11 June. The Taliban have taken up defensive positions east of Bamyan city.

III. Humanitarian activities and the human rights situation

37. My previous reports expressed my concern at the rapidly declining situation in Afghanistan. While the United Nations and its partners have been addressing humanitarian needs for many years, the combination of drought, conflict and human rights abuses have led to a new, more deadly level of crisis. While the objective of assisting people in situ to avoid the need for them to become displaced remains the cornerstone of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, several indicators in the period under review pointed to increased levels of vulnerability on a scale that will most likely generate further displacement and human suffering in the coming months. The World Food Programme (WFP)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations mission that conducted the yearly crop and food assessment in May 2001 observed that there was mounting evidence of emerging widespread famine conditions in the country. The mission also noted the rapidly increasing numbers of destitute people who could become refugees and internally displaced in the coming months in the absence of strong and well targeted humanitarian assistance. Some of the reasons quoted in that regard included the exhaustion of coping mechanisms, lack of seeds and the lack of casual labour opportunities for as many as 480,000 people in the former poppy cultivation areas. Reduction in the quality and quantity of food consumption was also noted in many locations.

38. The current caseload of internally displaced is estimated to be in excess of 700,000. United Nations contingency planning exercises indicate that the number of internally displaced could be well over one million persons by the end of 2001, up from 250,000 at the beginning of the year. Aid agencies say that, in districts from where there has been large displacement, those who do not leave are often the poorest and most vulnerable who cannot even afford to pay for transport to places of refuge. Priority attention is therefore being given by the assistance community to assistance plans that target and protect the livelihoods of those who have not yet left and create the conditions for those who have become displaced to return. The months under review have seen massive increases in the rate of internal displacement, in particular in the western and northern regions, owing mostly to depletion of food stocks combined with growing levels of insecurity as a result of fighting in areas of origin. In some places the drying up of drinking water sources has been the primary cause of displacement. Unless additional resources are urgently made available to the assistance community by Member States, the last quarter of 2001 and the first of 2002 could witness a significant deterioration in the situation with increasing loss of life and of livelihoods.

39. In the north-eastern region of Badakhshan, in June and July, it was observed that the number of available water sources was becoming alarmingly low. As a result, people in several villages are believed to be making preparations to leave their homes. Aid agencies in the area are monitoring the situation with a view to identifying immediate possibilities for intervention that might prevent further displacement.

40. To respond to the growing emergency, the assistance community, under the leadership of the United Nations Coordinator, is expanding its presence in Afghanistan by requesting reputable international non-governmental organizations to participate in the current relief efforts, in particular in the western and northern regions of the country. In the northern provinces of Balkh, Kunduz, Baglan and Faryab, where as many as 300,000 people are believed to be internally

displaced, camps to assist internally displaced persons are being set up, through a common protocol of assistance signed by relevant United Nations and non-governmental organizations in order to provide coordinated assistance until at least mid-2002.

41. In the first seven months of 2001, a great deal of attention was given by United Nations entities to the plight of an estimated 180,000 newly arrived Afghan refugees in Pakistan and some 200,000 arriving in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition, an estimated 10,000 Afghans exist in miserable conditions in the no-man's-land between Afghanistan and Tajikistan. People have fled Afghanistan because of harassment and persecution, conflict and the effects of drought, with the precise cause of movement varying between locations and between individuals. An estimated 60,000 people, many in destitute condition, settled in poor circumstances at the makeshift site of Jalozai in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan. In July 2001, a limited voluntary repatriation programme from Pakistan was resumed with assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP. Within the first month, almost 10,000 people had taken advantage of the programme, returning to areas in Afghanistan other than those severely affected by drought. An agreement was reached in early August between UNHCR and the Government of Pakistan under which Afghans at Jalozai and two other locations would be subjected to a joint screening process as to their eligibility to be considered.

42. A worrying feature of the current humanitarian crisis is the lack of significant action by the authorities in Afghanistan to provide assistance for their own people. The authorities cite a lack of budgetary resources as the reason for this inactivity. In July 2001, the Taliban authorities reportedly announced a budget of about $80 million for the financial year, equal to about one third of the flow of international community humanitarian resources to Afghanistan.

43. Since the beginning of 2001, United Nations humanitarian agencies have endeavoured to negotiate a simpler working framework with the authorities called the humanitarian operational requirements. Those requirements seek to confirm the indispensable principles of universality, impartiality and neutrality and to guarantee access to all populations in need. In the humanitarian operational requirements the United Nations has restated its need to conduct independent needs assessment exercises and programme monitoring. Agencies should be allowed to deploy female as well as male staff without hindrance and to provide assistance directly to female and male beneficiaries according to their needs. No discrimination against United Nations staff with respect to religion, ethnicity, nationality or gender can be tolerated. United Nations staff, premises, assets and resources must be kept secure and inviolable. However, the negotiations on the humanitarian operational requirements have been tortuous and inconclusive. While there is evidence of a genuine commitment by the authorities to ensure the security of United Nations international personnel, only qualified agreement has been reached on a number of the other provisions. Access to Afghan women remains a stumbling block. In practical terms, it is not possible for the few female Afghan staff employed by United Nations entities to work normally. Exceptions to this, in particular in the health sector and United Nations-assisted bakeries, allow for pragmatic arrangements to enable Afghan women to continue working, although there are regular challenges to the continuation of this state of affairs.

44. In July the Taliban issued a decree formalizing restrictions on the activities of foreigners. That decree, inter alia, reconfirms the requirement for female Muslim foreign workers to be accompanied by a *mahram* (male escort) and seemingly prevents foreign workers from meeting with or interviewing Afghan women. Humanitarian agencies are concerned about the possible application of sharia law to foreigners. Moreover, changes in administrative procedures, deliberate restriction of access to humanitarian assistance and rhetorical attacks on aid agencies have rendered humanitarian assistance work all the more complex. Arrests of national humanitarian staff by Taliban forces have increased. United Nations staff and aid project managers have frequently been subjected to coercion and abusive behaviour by the Taliban authorities. As a consequence of those restrictive measures and actions, aid organizations have found it increasingly difficult to reach populations in need, in particular women. It is imperative that the Taliban cease the harassment of humanitarian workers and make a firm commitment to the humanitarian operational requirements described above.

45. In the sphere of human rights, there has been no improvement in the policies, practices and circumstances that undermine the ability of Afghans to enjoy their most fundamental rights. As noted in previous reports, the

combination of war, weak and unrepresentative governance mechanisms and widespread and deep-rooted poverty coupled with the drought and profound underdevelopment is a deadly mixture for a growing number of Afghans. More and more Afghans are on the move as they seek safety and survival elsewhere, including in neighbouring countries and beyond.

46. Policies and practices that are widespread in Afghanistan and are enforced with official backing in Taliban-controlled areas continue to be of great concern. Women and girls are subjected to officially sanctioned discrimination that further restricts their access to the minimal opportunities that are available and essential for the enjoyment of such basics as the right to health, education and a means of livelihood. With the exception of the health sector, women, including female-headed households, have virtually no possibility of finding employment outside the home. Many destitute women are reduced to begging. It is widely reported that young girls are marrying earlier, as the bride price is used to stave off hunger or to supplement a family's survival strategy. Recent months have also seen greater harassment that impinges on the mobility of minority groups in particular and has contributed to a growing climate of fear and increased population flows.

47. Restrictions imposed by Taliban authorities also have an impact on the ability of aid agencies to identify and reach particular groups, including females. In some instances, access has been denied or blocked to certain areas, thereby exacerbating the suffering and threatening the survival of at-risk groups. Persistent reports of harassment of Afghans in neighbouring countries are also cause for concern. As the crisis in Afghanistan deepens, the importance of maintaining respect for the right to seek asylum increases. In that connection, the recent agreement on screening procedures for refugee status determination between the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR is welcome (see para. 41).

48. As noted in previous reports, civilians bear the brunt of the fighting in Afghanistan. It is now a well-established pattern that civilians are deliberately targeted and often are subjected to summary execution and arbitrary detention. The indiscriminate use of landmines by both parties to the conflict is widespread. Aerial bombardment of residential areas, including in Ghor in June, is also a frequent occurrence. The deliberate abuse of civilians in Yakawlang and the surrounding area continues. Recent incidents included the torching of Nayak, the principal commercial centre of Yakawlang District, in June. This scorched earth policy, which also included the burning of villages in Bamyan District in June, renders areas uninhabitable and has serious ramifications for livelihoods and the general capacity to cope of the affected population. Recent military initiatives have also included internal Taliban blockades of enclaves controlled by the United Front that effectively results in collective punishment of the civilians trapped in those areas.

49. My report of 19 April (A/55/907-S/2001/384) summarized information that was then available of the alleged massacre of dozens of civilians during the take-over of Yakawlang by Taliban forces in January 2001. Given the importance of addressing the issue of impunity in Afghanistan and of bringing a halt to the systematic violations of human rights, additional evidence on the human rights situation of Afghanistan has been collected under the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights. A preliminary analysis of that evidence suggests that at least 130 Afghan men were summarily executed, allegedly by Taliban forces. There is also evidence to indicate that many of those killed were buried in mass graves. Information on the identity of some alleged perpetrators has also become available. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is following this and other related allegations closely.

50. Given the persistent allegations of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, it is important that the international community urgently take steps to address the issue of impunity.

IV. Narcotics

51. A donor assessment mission organized by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to Afghanistan in April/May 2001 confirmed the overall findings of the pre-assessment survey conducted earlier in the year by the Programme that the July 2000 decree banning opium poppy cultivation had been implemented during the growing season from November 2000 to April 2001. However, the donor assessment mission also found that the opium poppy ban had resulted in additional severe hardship for many small farmers in particular for sharecroppers and itinerant workers. Indebtedness was very high among sharecroppers and it was observed that itinerant

workers, without their main source of income, were becoming displaced, seeking refuge in major urban centres or in other countries or enlisting in the Afghan conflict. The mission recommended, inter alia, that aid agencies with relevant mandates should engage more in areas of former poppy cultivation in the short to medium term by providing subsidized agricultural inputs or implementing food/cash-for-work programmes. Relevant United Nations entities have prepared a package of assistance to former opium poppy growing areas and resources are now urgently being sought for its implementation. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme is also completing its annual opium poppy survey in Afghanistan, the results of which will become available in September 2001. The report will contain detailed information on the extent and level of opium poppy cultivation in the country.

V. Observations

52. The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan has reached alarming proportions owing to the combined effects of 22 years of conflict and the worst drought in living memory. The war is currently affecting some 17 provinces, adding to the misery and insecurity of the civilian population in those areas and continuing to have a grave effect on the lives and livelihoods of Afghans in the others. This, in turn, has led to further waves of population displacements during the past four months. It is highly regrettable that the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan continue to disregard the interests of their own people while pursuing policies that have contributed to one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

53. The political and military outlook mirrors the humanitarian situation in many ways. With the coming of spring and summer, the fighting season has begun in earnest. While neither warring side has so far achieved a major military gain, the war has spread to more areas of Afghanistan than was the case hitherto and the two factions, by all accounts well armed and supplied, have concentrated large forces in the north-east ready for combat. It is a matter of particular concern that the number of foreigners fighting alongside the Taliban has not declined, but rather to the contrary, the presence of so-called "guests" is increasingly noticeable in the major urban centres. This adds to the suspicion that certain foreigners play a growing decision-making role within the Taliban leadership to the detriment of those Afghan elements within the Taliban who are considered more pragmatic or moderate. Their waning influence coincides with the recent demise of Mullah Muhammad Rabbani, considered one of the few persons with his own power base, although his influence had been on the decline in the past year with the onset of his illness.

54. While the willingness of the Taliban authorities to pursue their discussions with my Personal Representative is valued, I am distressed at their continued unwillingness to enter into a dialogue with the United Front as agreed to by the two sides in November 2000, on the claim that the adoption of last December's sanctions against the Taliban is evidence of partiality on the part of the United Nations. My Personal Representative has repeatedly pointed out the reasons behind the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000) and reminded the Taliban that it is within their power to remove the causes that led to imposition of sanctions against them and that the Secretary-General's capacity to act as an honest broker, even in situations where a party is the subject of a sanctions regime, has not been compromised. The closure in May by the Taliban of the UNSMA offices in four provincial centres is also a matter of regret since it diminishes the ability of the Special Mission to interact with local officials and non-official groups and to carry out the mandate assigned to the Civil Affairs Unit by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

55. The donor assessment mission that surveyed poppy-growing areas has confirmed the earlier finding of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme that the Taliban decree of 2000 banning opium poppy cultivation has been implemented. The Taliban authorities deserve credit for this effective measure. It is now essential that the international community proceed expeditiously to assist those farmers who have been deprived of their main source of income before the new planting season starts in October-November. I also take this opportunity to call on the authorities of the United Front to intensify their efforts to eradicate poppy cultivation in their areas.

56. While the United Front has recently stated its commitment to a negotiated political settlement based on the right of the Afghan people to self-determination, a position supported by those Afghans supporting the convening of an emergency *loya jirga*, the Taliban remain of the view that the selection by ulemas of Mullah Mohammad Omar as "Amir-ul Momenin" with lifelong

untrammelled powers has already adequately expressed the wishes of the Afghan people. The Taliban continue to consider the maintenance of the "Islamic Emirate" a precondition to any political settlement.

57. I can report no progress either on the position of the Taliban regarding the surrender of Osama bin Laden or on the closure of the camps where international terrorists are trained. On the former, the Taliban continue to insist that any trial should take place in Afghanistan or be under sharia law, whereas they deny the existence of the latter.

58. Likewise, discrimination against women and girls persists, seriously restricting their access to education and employment facilities and often disrupting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Widespread human rights violations, including summary executions and arbitrary detentions, show no signs of abating, while communities in frontline areas are subjected to the indiscriminate use of landmines, bombing and the deliberate torching of settlements, as exemplified by the burning down of Yakawlang after the brief recapture of the town by the Taliban in June.

59. After so many years of fruitless endeavours, the intergovernmental organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, might wish to consider adopting a comprehensive approach to the settlement of Afghanistan, in its political, military, humanitarian and human rights dimensions, setting forth the basic requirements for a settlement of the conflict and the principles on which it should be based, together with a coherent strategy to resolve the conflict. Such an approach ought to be based on a careful diagnosis of the current situation based on the premises that no military solution to the Afghan conflict is possible, desirable or indeed acceptable, that the pursuance of the conflict is futile since territorial gains achieved on the battlefield do not constitute the basis for the legitimization of power and that a piecemeal, as distinct from a step-by-step, approach is unlikely to succeed in either ending the conflict or in solving the specific concerns of the international community, such as terrorism, refugees or human rights.

60. The comprehensive approach should start from the premise that the conditions prevalent in Afghanistan have for many years prevented its people from exercising their rights to decide freely on the form of this government and whom they wish to govern them. This in addition to the continued foreign interference in the affairs of Afghanistan, lies at the root of this prolonged conflict. Only a solution that guarantees to the Afghans their right to decide freely on their form of government through an internationally acceptable mechanism, such as elections, or a fully representative *loya jirga*, can put an end to the crisis of legitimacy that has characterized Afghanistan since the 1970s. The lack of legitimacy has led to persistent internal challenges to successive Afghan Governments facilitating, in turn, the intervention of outside forces in support of one or other claimant. The Security Council may also wish to seek to ensure that a freely chosen government in Afghanistan also abides by its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments to which Afghanistan is a party and also by generally recognized principles regarding human rights and non-discrimination, establishes a pluralistic and representative form of government in which all ethnic and other groups feel adequately represented and commits itself to policies of non-aggression and friendly relations with its neighbours.

61. Having set its objectives, the Security Council may wish to consider a strategy to achieve those objectives, including incentives and disincentives, aimed at encouraging the parties to enter into serious negotiations and move towards a settlement along the principles set forth above. This would also eliminate any confusion about the objective of sanctions, which would thus be clearly seen as a means to an end. At the same time, the Council might, as an incentive, encourage the establishment of a rehabilitation and reconstruction plan for Afghanistan that would be available for immediate implementation once an overall political settlement had been arrived at, ensure its durability and send a signal of hope to the Afghan people. Any strategy drawn up could also aim at addressing human rights violations, strengthening civil society's efforts to promote peace and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance on the basis of internationally accepted principles.

62. The international and regional aspects of the conflict should also be addressed in that overall context. The Security Council may wish to encourage all the Governments concerned, in particular those of the "six plus two" group, to reinvigorate their efforts to harmonize their legitimate national interests and find a common approach regarding the future of an Afghan nation and its system. Without sustained political will on the part of those Governments and without their

concerted efforts, the underlying causes of the Afghan conflict will not be adequately addressed.

63. I am convinced that a political solution based on the twin pillars of enabling the Afghan people to freely determine their own future and securing the legitimate national interests of Afghanistan's neighbours through mutually binding commitments offers the best guarantee for a lasting peace in Afghanistan. The current reawakened interest in Afghanistan offers a limited window of opportunity to lay down a comprehensive formula for the settlement of the conflict. I stand ready to make my Personal Representative available to develop this approach further with members of the Security Council and the General Assembly in the coming months.

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Agenda items 40 and 41

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Letter dated 16 August 2001 from the representatives of Mali and Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you that at two urgent and successive meetings, the first of the Follow-up Committee of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference and the second of the Islamic Group, both held yesterday, at the ambassadorial level, grave concern was expressed over the deteriorating situation that has developed in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem. This, we contend, is the direct outcome of Israel's unwarranted and illegal seizure of the Orient House, its high-handed closure of the Palestinian Authority's political and security offices; its forceful occupation of several other Palestinian buildings in East Jerusalem; its destruction of a Palestinian police station and other property in Jenin and, among other things, its killing and injuring of Palestinian citizens, including children.

While these and other actions of Israel, the occupying Power, are severely undermining the Palestinian Authority's efforts to lend stability to its administration, they also critically threaten the peace process in Palestine and the Middle East region. We have, yesterday, addressed a letter to the President of the Security Council requesting an immediate meeting of the Council to address the crisis-ridden situation in Palestine (S/2001/797).

On behalf of the Islamic Group and of the Follow-up Committee on the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference, we are now writing to you to request your urgent initiative in dealing with the grave situation and, in particular, in providing international protection to the Palestinian people against the inhuman atrocities of Israel, the occupying Power.

01-51422 (E) 170801

We would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 40 and 41.

(*Signed*) Issouf Oumar **Maiga**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Mali
Chairman of the Islamic Group

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
State of Qatar
Chairman of the Follow-up Committee

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Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 August 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 27 August 2001, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Şafak **Göktürk**
First Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

01-52302 (E) 300801

Annex to the letter dated 27 August 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I would like to refer to the letter dated 6 July 2001 (A/55/1012-S/2001/678) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations and to bring to your kind attention the following:

President Rauf R. Denktaş, in his letter dated 31 May 2001 (A/55/986-S/2001/575) addressed to you, put forward lucidly the position of the Turkish Cypriot side with regard to the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights on the fourth application made by the Greek Cypriot administration and the *Loizidou* case. However, in view of the fact that the Greek Cypriot representative has made references to the above rulings in his letter, I feel compelled to reiterate our position expounded by President Denktaş.

In both of the above-mentioned rulings, the European Court of Human Rights bases its decisions on political considerations ignoring the realities and legality that prevail in the island. The European Court of Human Rights wrongfully isolated the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which has jurisdiction over the northern part of the island, from the proceedings of the Court. Instead, the Court considered Turkey, which has no jurisdiction in North Cyprus, as the party to the proceedings and concluded that she has violated certain articles of the European Human Rights Convention. In contrast, Turkey, a guarantor Power, which put an end to the bloodshed in Cyprus by its timely intervention in 1974, has done nothing but to protect the most basic human rights in the island.

The purpose of the Greek Cypriot administration in bringing such applications before the Court is to acquire a weapon that could be used to change the parameters established through the United Nations-sponsored negotiations in its favour. In the aftermath of these rulings, the Greek Cypriot leadership stated that it would only accept a solution in line with the European Court rulings, rejecting such United Nations parameters as bi-zonality, global exchange and/or compensation for the settlement of property issues which make up the pillars of a possible agreement in Cyprus.

The Court's finding on the fourth application, concerning the "Greek-Cypriot missing persons and their relatives", is unjustified. Turkey, as evident from the composition of the autonomous tripartite Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, which is the only competent body with a mandate to conduct an effective investigation into the fate of the missing persons, is not a party to this issue. In order to settle this issue, the Committee on Missing Persons should be allowed to complete its mandate, in accordance with its agreed terms of reference, procedures and suggestions of Your Excellency contained in your letters addressed to the two parties in 1996. It is the rejection of the above-mentioned criteria by the Greek Cypriot administration that prevents the completion of the mandate of the Committee. In the light of these facts, recourse by the Greek Cypriot administration to other channels shows that the aim of the Greek Cypriot administration is not really to determine the fate of the "missing persons", but to politically manipulate a humanitarian issue and make false propaganda at the expense of the Turkish side.

In line with this policy, the Greek Cypriot administration has been deliberately misleading the Greek and Greek Cypriot families of the missing persons, all these years, by having them believe that their loved ones were alive. Such cases have been unfolding one after the other in South Cyprus. Recently, the Greek Cypriot press carried the story of the Greek sergeant, Christos Koukoularis, who died in combat on 16 August 1974 and was buried in a mass grave at Lakatamia (South Cyprus) military cemetery about a week later. Despite the fact that this was known by the Greek Cypriot administration, it was deliberately kept secret from his family.

As regards the finding of the Court on the "homes and property of displaced persons", I would like to state that the Court disregarded the fundamental parameters, namely bi-zonality, which necessitates the settlement of reciprocal property claims through global exchange and/or compensation. The Court ruling also ignores the fact that the question of displaced persons was settled through the voluntary-exchange-of-populations agreement reached between the two sides in Vienna in 1975. In accordance with that agreement, which was implemented under the supervision of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), Turkish Cypriots moved to the North and Greek Cypriots moved to the South. Furthermore, the decision disregards the fact that the two sides in Cyprus have been separated by a "green line" since 1963 and by a ceasefire arrangement since 1974 reached under the auspices of the United Nations. The ruling also ignores the fact that an internationally recognized buffer zone, under the control of UNFICYP, has been established between the respective territories of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus.

With regard to the ruling of the Court concerning the "living conditions of Greek Cypriots" in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I would like to stress that all Greek Cypriots are accorded the same rights as those enjoyed by other residents without any discrimination. Their living standards are on a par with those of Turkish Cypriots in the area. As also indicated in Your Excellency's report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus dated 26 May 2000 (S/2000/496 and Corr.1), all necessary measures have been duly taken by our authorities to further enhance the living standards of the Greek Cypriots residing in North Cyprus and to ensure their continued well-being.

Contrary to the Greek Cypriot representative's allegation, Turkey neither "occupies" nor has "expansionist designs in Cyprus". In fact, Turkey intervened in Cyprus, in accordance with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, in order to put an end to Greece's expansionist designs which culminated, on 15 July 1974, in the invasion of the island by Greece. It will be recalled that even the then Greek Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios, in his address to the Security Council on 19 July 1974, stated that Greece had, indeed, invaded the island in July 1974.

Today it is only the Greek Cypriot administration, with the support of Greece, which has expansionist designs in Cyprus. Not a day goes by without statements by the Greek Cypriot leadership preaching invasion of Northern Cyprus and revealing their preparations towards this end. As recently stated by the Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Glafcos Clerides, *"the rearmament of Southern Cyprus continues within the framework of Greek-Greek Cypriot Joint Military Doctrine"*. (Greek Cypriot daily *Politis* dated 23 April 2001)

In view of the above, the Turkish military presence in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in accordance with the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, is a vital security requirement for the Turkish Cypriot people. The need for such continued guarantees can be further understood by looking at the recent history of the island. The years between 1963 and 1974 witnessed unprecedented cruelty, violence and human rights violations perpetrated by the Greek Cypriots against the Turkish Cypriot people. As a result of Greek Cypriot atrocities during those years, 103 villages had to be evacuated and 30,000 Turkish Cypriots had to take refuge in enclaves under inhuman conditions and in fear for their lives for 11 years.

As regards the reference to the "subordinate local administration", suffice it to say that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, established by the Turkish Cypriot people through the exercise of their inherent right to self-determination, is a sovereign and independent State. It is also important to note that Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and respects the sovereignty and independence of this State. In fact, it is the Greek Cypriot administration which, by hanging on to its usurped title of the "government of Cyprus", is attempting to make the Turkish Cypriot State its "subordinate administration" in realization of its long-term aspiration of making Cyprus a Greek island with a Turkish Cypriot "minority".

The Greek Cypriot representative alleges that Turkey is "pursuing relentlessly the acceptance of the so-called 'realities'" created by its intervention in the island in 1974. It is clear that the Greek Cypriot representative is finding it difficult to come to grips with the fact that today's realities, namely the existence of two States in Cyprus, came about not in 1974 but in 1963 as a result of the destruction of the partnership Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot administration. This left the Turkish Cypriot side no alternative but to establish its own administration and eventually its own State. The fact that there have been two administrations in the island since the destruction in 1963 of the Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot side had also been confirmed by Mr. Glafcos Clerides in his memoirs entitled *Cyprus: My Deposition*:

> *"... Because of the disruption of constitutional order a peculiar situation was created, by virtue of which the state authority, on the one hand, came under the absolute control of the Greeks, and though the Government was recognized internationally, yet internally Turkish enclaves were created within the territory of the Republic in which, at first, an elementary organization for the purpose of governing the Turkish Cypriots were established ... The elementary military-political organization of the Turks in the enclaves developed into a Temporary Administration on the basis of a charter, and at the same time the political and military authorities were separated."*

As for the baseless claim that "120,000 settlers were imported" into North Cyprus, I would like to state that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent authority to carry out a population census in its territory. Since these data are in contrast with the publicly declared results of the census carried out by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, it cannot reveal the true picture regarding the population in this country.

Mr. Sotos Zackheos, as representative of the Greek Cypriot administration, an illegal and illegitimate administration which usurped, by force of arms, the title of the "government of Cyprus" and ordered massacres of the Turkish Cypriot people and continue to this day to impose inhuman embargoes on them, has the audacity to

talk about "the rule of law" and "the true interests of" the Turkish Cypriot people. The fact that the Greek Cypriot side brands as "unacceptable preconditions" any position that would guarantee the legitimate and equal sovereign rights of the Turkish Cypriot people reveals the contempt of the Greek Cypriot administration for the rule of law and the rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people.

The Greek Cypriot administration, which claims that "the primary focus should be on intensifying the efforts for finding a just and workable solution", is, instead, having recourse, through exploitation of its false title of the "government of Cyprus" to such forums as the European Court of Human Rights in order to destroy the basis for such a settlement. We trust that you will do your utmost to impress upon the Greek Cypriot administration the necessity to cease all such activities that hamper your efforts towards a just and workable settlement. The Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus believes, as three decades of negotiations have shown, that any approach to a settlement in Cyprus which is divorced from the historical, legal and political realities of the island would fail.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus